

Pretty soon they will be able to make it say anything they want it to say, and then we will all be in trouble.

The Grinch may have already stolen Christmas. Let us keep him from stealing the Constitution too.

□ 1045

COMMITTEE FOR STIMULUS PACKAGE NEEDS TO MEET

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the President and many national leaders are asking us to stimulate the economy by putting together a package and presenting it to the President for his signature. Some may remember it was this House that passed the so-called stimulus package, but what was in it? Hundreds of billions of dollars of corporate tax cuts, and little if no notice was given to the hundreds of thousands of people that are unemployed. That is the Republican stimulus package. Yet Members are ridiculing the Senate for not moving. What they fail to realize is that the leadership of the committee is not on the Senate side. The chairmanship of the committee comes from the House side from the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, it would seem to me that if we were serious about doing something, the committee would have a meeting. What most Americans and Members do not know, we have not met since last Wednesday. If there is an urgency, let us not blame the Senate. Let us find out where the blame is, and have Members of Congress not having press conferences or fund-raisers, but coming together trying to resolve this difference.

MUSIC INDUSTRY NOT HELPING PARENTS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, recently the Federal Trade Commission released a study on the marketing practices of different sectors of the entertainment industry. The report finds movie and video game companies have made "commendable" progress since last year, placing limits on ads for violent games and movies in popular teen media and disclosing those ratings in its ads.

Regrettably, however, the commission found that only the music industry continues to place no restrictions on what materials it can market to underaged children in magazines, on TV, radio and over the Internet.

While the music industry labels its products, one of the FTC commissioners stated it correctly: "I think it is hypocritical for the music industry to claim it is helping parents by plac-

ing a parental label on CDs, while at the same time undermining parents by aggressively marketing the same CD to children."

When industry fails to institute meaningful self-regulation and act responsibly, I, both as a parent and a member of the community, believe government has an obligation.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINATIONS

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage Members to join me in nominating two revered Vietnamese spiritual leaders for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Monday was International Human Rights Day. In accepting his Nobel Peace Prize on its 100th anniversary, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan urged all nations to focus more on human rights in a quest to end poverty, prevent conflicts, and to foster democracy.

It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to join me in asking the Nobel Peace Prize Selection Committee to nominate the Most Venerable Thich Quang Do and Father Van Ly of Vietnam for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Most Venerable Thich Quang Do is the secretary-general of the banned Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam. Since June 2001, he has been under house arrest for announcing his intention to escort the ailing 83-year-old Buddhist patriarch Thich Huyen Quang to Ho Chi Minh City for urgently needed medical attention.

Similarly, earlier this year, Father Ly was placed under house arrest and banned from running his church for providing testimony to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, which urged this Congress to do something about human rights and religious persecution in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their leadership and sacrifice, I urge my colleagues to join me in signing this letter to the U.N.

SUPPORT CALL TO SERVICE ACT

(Mr. OSBORNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, since the events of September 11, our country has witnessed a surge of patriotism and a desire to serve. This morning the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) and I introduced the Call to Service Act which attempts to harness some of this energy.

I would like to emphasize three parts of this act which are particularly noteworthy. Number one, the act provides service opportunities all across the country, particularly in rural and underserved areas. An example is incen-

tives for teachers to stay in rural and underserved areas.

Secondly, the act creates a new short-term military service category: 18 months of active duty and 18 months of reserve duty. These troops will provide security at airports, bridges, nuclear facilities, and our Nation's borders. They would also provide technical assistance in case of a health emergency caused by bioterrorism.

Lastly, the Call to Service Act will create thousands of opportunities to provide mentoring and tutoring for children who are desperately in need of a caring adult role model. Senior citizens will be especially helpful in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support the Call to Service Act.

STIMULUS PACKAGE NEEDED TO HELP UNEMPLOYED, NOT JUST THE WEALTHY

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Federal Reserve cut short-term interest rates for the eleventh time in as many months. However, the U.S. economy continues to grow weaker. Last month the Nation's unemployment rate hit a 6-year high of 5.7 percent. Industry production appears to be at its weakest level in 20 years. Factories are operating at the lowest levels of capacity since 1983.

These statistics translate into Americans losing jobs, and with them the means to obtain health care, food and shelter. The Latino community for example is the fastest growing segment of the workforce, but is one of the most vulnerable, as many Latino workers are concentrated in low-wage industries with unsteady work.

Mr. Speaker, it is good, commonsense public policy to stimulate the economy by putting money in the hands of people who need it most and who will spend it immediately. This action increases the demand for goods and services, which is the only way to get our Nation's business, all of the businesses, investing, producing, and hiring again. Congress must pass a stimulus package that helps the unemployed, not only the wealthy.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL NEEDED

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, more than a month ago this House passed a much-needed economic stimulus package; but, unfortunately, America waits. American families have been waiting for the Democratic leadership in the other body to act; waiting for the relief to spur on economic investment; waiting for additional Federal assistance so